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### BACKGROUND

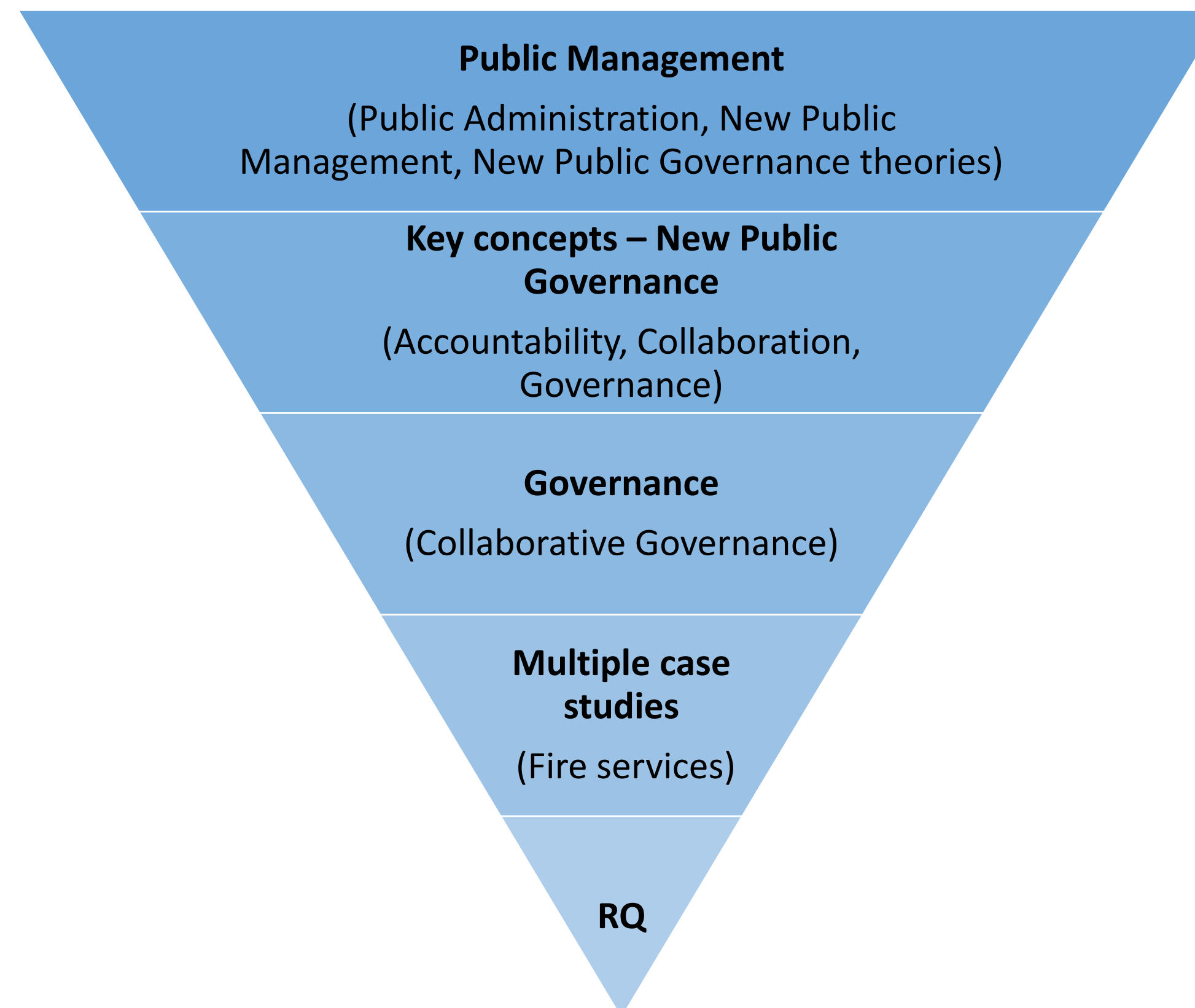
Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) in England have experienced considerable reform over the last 30 years, including recent radical changes driven by austerity and significant reductions in public expenditure (NAO 2015, PAC 2016, Murphy and Greenhalgh, 2018).



Nevertheless, government discontent with the performance and the speed of change within the sector persists and has culminated in the implementation of the Policing and Crime Act 2017.



### THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES



### RESEARCH APPROACH AND METHODS

This research will use a deductive approach within a methodology based on multiple case studies. A sequential mixed methods approach will address the research question.

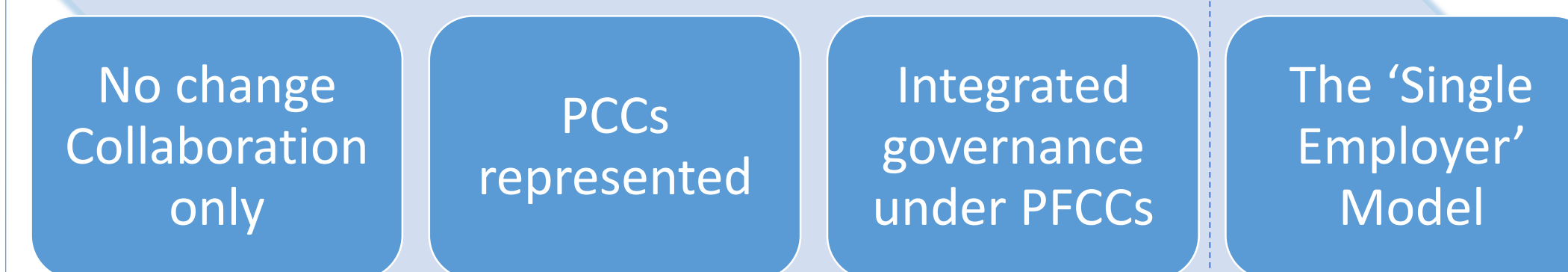
- 1 • A document analysis of key FRS documents
- 2 • A review of public and non-public data
- 3 • A series of interviews and focus groups drawn from key stakeholders involved in collaborative arrangements



### MULTIPLE CASE STUDIES

It is proposed to use a selection of the **45 FRSs**. The criteria for multiple case studies selection include a spread across **four different stages of integration**:

#### The depth of integration



and across the **four different types of FRSs** (county, combined, metropolitan and London).



### REFERENCES

1. Murphy, P., and Greenhalgh, K., 2018. *Fire and rescue services: leadership and management perspectives*. London: Springer.
2. National Audit Office, 2015. *Financial sustainability of fire and rescue services* Local Government Report. NAO. London.
3. Public Accounts Select Committee, 2016. *Financial Sustainability of fire and rescue services*. London: House of Commons.



### THE POLICING AND CRIME ACT 2017 AND ITS IMPLICATIONS

#### Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs)

- The government has encouraged and enabled PCCs to take on responsibilities for local fire services to generate savings and more effective joint working.

#### New external scrutiny arrangements

- New inspectorate, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS), will assess and report on the management, effectiveness, and leadership of police forces and FRSs in England to improve accountability and transparency for local communities.



### RESEARCH QUESTIONS

**To what extent will the emerging collaborative governance arrangements affect accountability within the FRS?**

What new governance and accountability arrangements are emerging within FRS?

How do these differ from existing arrangements?

To what extent will these new arrangements deliver more effective governance and accountability in FRS?

How will the new arrangements influence the development of new forms of collaborative governance?